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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,428	12/28/2000	Isao Yagasaki	826.1657	5687

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EXAMINER

SHERKAT, AREZOO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,428

Applicant(s)

YAGASAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Arezoo Sherkat

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

This office action is responsive to Applicant's amendment received on September 1, 2004. Claims 1 and 5-9 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 10-12 have been added.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 6-7 of Applicant's remarks, filed on September 1, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Satio et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0044894 and Satio hereinafter) and Curry et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,740 and Curry hereinafter).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Satio et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0044894 and Satio hereinafter).

Regarding claims 1 and 3, Satio discloses a certifying system, comprising:

- a registering device registering common certificate information in common with a plurality of services (Page 1, Par. 0005-0006);

- a receiving device receiving certificate information of a user when the user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services (Pages 5-6, Par. 0050-0056);

- a determining device determining whether the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information, and a permitting device permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Page 6, Par. 0057-0058);

- a storing device storing identification information and password information for the particular service, a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information, and an issuing and/or invalidating device for issuing and/or invalidating the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user (Page 4, Par. 0042-0046).

Regarding claim 4, Satio discloses further comprising:

an available service managing device registering the plurality of services as available services with the common certificate information (i.e., The integrated authentication server 2 compares an access level of the user with an access level of the application server 6 and if access to the application server 6 is permissible, extracts certificates of the application server 6 and user concerning the service and confirms the effectiveness of the certificates by confirming the latest certificate revocation list)(Page 8, Par. 0084-0089).

Regarding claim 5, Satio discloses a terminal unit, comprising:

a transmitting device transmitting common certificate information in common with a plurality of services when a user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services (Page 1, Par. 0007),

a service utilizing device providing the particular service to the user when the user has been successfully certified based on the common certificate information (Page 4, Par. 0045-0046);

a storing device storing identification information and password information for the particular service, a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information, and an issuing device for issuing the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user (Page 4, Par. 0042-0046).

Regarding claim 6, Satio discloses a computer-readable recording medium on which a program for a computer is recorded, said program causing the computer to perform:

a storing device storing identification information and password information for the particular service, a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information, and an issuing device for issuing the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user (Page 4, Par. 0042-0046); and

receiving the common certificate information of the user when the user accesses the particular service of a plurality of services (Pages 5-6, Par. 0050-0056);

determining whether or not the certificate information of the user corresponds to common certificate information in common with the plurality of services, and permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Page 6, Par. 0057-0058).

Regarding claim 7, Satio discloses a certifying method, comprising:

pre-registering common certificate information in common with a plurality of services (Page 1, Par. 0005-0006);

determining whether certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information when the user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services, and permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the

certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Page 6, Par. 0057-0058);

a storing device storing identification information and password information for the particular service, a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information, and an issuing device for issuing the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user (Page 4, Par. 0042-0046).

Regarding claim 8, Satio discloses a certifying system, comprising:

registering means for registering common certificate information in common with a plurality of services (Page 1, Par. 0005-0006);

receiving means for receiving certificate information of a user when the user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services (Pages 5-6, Par. 0050-0056);

determining means for determining whether the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information, and permitting means for permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Page 6, Par. 0057-0058);

a storing device storing identification information and password information for the particular service, a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information, and an issuing device for issuing the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user (Page 4, Par. 0042-0046).

Regarding claim 9, Satio discloses a propagation signal for propagating a program to a computer, the program causing the computer to perform:

receiving certificate information of a user when the user accesses a particular service of a plurality of services (Pages 5-6, Par. 0050-0056);

determining whether the certificate information of the user corresponds to common certificate information in common with the plurality of services, and permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Page 6, Par. 0057-0058);

a storing device storing identification information and password information for the particular service, a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information, and an issuing device for issuing the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user (Page 4, Par. 0042-0046).

Regarding claim 11, Satio discloses an authentication method for accessing a plurality of service servers having respective identification and password information using a common certificate information, comprising:

generating user information management table having the respective identification and password information of the plurality of service servers for each user (Pages 3-4, Par. 0039-0040); and

issuing the common certificate information in relation to each of the plurality of service servers upon authenticating the user based on user's input of the respective identification and password information of the plurality of service servers, wherein the user is subsequently enabled to access each of the plurality of service servers using the common certificated information (Page 2, Par 0015-0016).

Regarding claim 12, Satio discloses a certifying method to allow use of a common certificate information with a plurality of services, comprising:

linking the common certificate information to each of the plurality of services upon authentication of a user based on respective password and identification information of the plurality of services, and authorizing use of the plurality of services based on the common certificate information (Page 2, Par 0015-0016).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Satio et al., (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0044894 and Satio hereinafter), in view of Curry et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,740 and Curry hereinafter).

Regarding claim 10, Satio discloses a method for prohibiting use of common certificate information with a particular service, comprising:

receiving certificate information input by a user and determining whether the certificate information input by the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Pages 5-6, Par. 0050-0056);

validating use of the particular service using the received common certificate upon determining that the certificate information input by the user corresponds to the common certificate information (Page 6, Par. 0057-0058).

Satio does not expressly disclose wherein the user is prompted for input upon validating the use of a particular service.

However, Curry discloses wherein users are prompted to indicate whether the user wishes to continue after verifying that the expiry period of the certificate is lapsed (Col. 5, lines 65-67 and Col. 6, lines 1-24).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the security management method of Satio by including wherein the user is prompted for input upon validating the use of a particular service as disclosed by Curry. This modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated by the suggestion of Curry to provide an improved solution for the problem of non-detection of revoked certificates (Curry, Col. 2, lines 4-50).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arezoo Sherkat whose telephone number is (571) 272-3796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday.

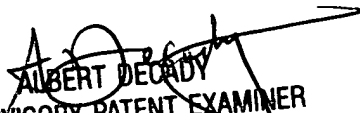
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2131

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arezoo Sherkat
Patent Examiner
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Feb. 22, 2005



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